



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Children and Family Services

At its meeting held December 6, 2005, the Board took the following action:

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The following item was called up for consideration:

The Director of Children and Family Services' recommendation to approve and instruct the Mayor to sign a twelve-month contract with the Regents of University of California, Los Angeles, in amount of \$474,911, to provide Children and Families Research and Evaluation services, effective the date of execution through December 5, 2006, financed with 46% Federal funds and 54% net County cost; with cost for contract Fiscal Year 2005-06 at \$300,000, financed using \$138,000 Federal revenue and \$162,000 net County cost; and approve an appropriation adjustment to transfer \$162,000 appropriation and net County cost from Provisional Financing Uses to the Department's Administration Budget, and to increase Federal revenue in the Department's Administration Budget by \$138,000 to fully finance the Contract for Fiscal Year 2005-06.

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

"On April 20, 2004, the Board of Supervisors directed the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), in collaboration with County law enforcement and social services agencies, to create a task force dedicated to identifying ways to locate children; developing alternative preventative solutions, and implementing programs to eliminate the issues of missing children. The Missing Children Task Force addressed many of the issues that effect this population. While DCFS has made significant efforts to identify why children are fleeing from placements and trying to locate youth who runaway, the Department failed to have the task force remain in tact to ensure ongoing problems facing runaway children in our foster care system were monitored. The task force was disbanded by DCFS without completing recommended changes.

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“As of December 2005, DCFS reported having initiated a total of 913 protective custody warrants for children and youth. Of those, 859 were warrants for children and youth who had run away from out-of-home care, and 54 warrants were issued for children who were abducted by a parent, relative, or public guardian. It is concerning that the numbers of runaway children persist.

Krystina Kessler addressed the Board.

After discussion, Supervisor Antonovich made a motion that the Board take the following actions:

1. Adopt the Director of Children and Family Services’ attached recommendation;
2. Direct the Director of Children and Family Services to reconvene the “Missing Children” Task Force in order to continue in the identification and refinement of practices for the prevention and recovery of runaways; and to report back on a quarterly basis on planned and implemented practices to better serve children who have run away or have the potential to run away from out-of-home care with the quarterly reports to include the status of:
 - Existing Countywide and community-specific services and programs, including the support that the Department of Children and Family Services’ (DCFS) Emergency Response Command Post can provide;
 - Improved maintenance of the DCFS Missing Children Website to enable the provision of quality information on missing children related to numbers, demographics, and information that will evidence progress in both the prevention and recovering of missing children;
 - Enhancement of the DCFS Child Protection Hotline’s 24-hours/ 7-day-per-week ability to provide specialized support to DCFS in the screening and appropriate referral of calls it received regarding missing children;

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- Consideration of using the resources that will support the Countywide expansion of the Permanency Partners Program (P-3) to locate and plan for the permanency of runaway youth; and
- Addressing the issues that have been raised by those young people who have run away with valid suggestions and corrections and modifications to the Department's policy.

Dr. David Sanders, Director of Children and Family Services responded to questions posed by the Board.

After further discussion, Supervisor Molina made a suggestion that Supervisor Antonovich's motion be amended to direct the Director of Children and Family Services to:

1. Report back on a monthly basis; and
2. Include in the monthly reports an exact breakdown of how many of the missing children have been found, what efforts are being made to find the ones that are still missing, the breakdown of those children who were found and lost again, and particularly what has happened to the abducted children.

Supervisor Antonovich accepted Supervisor Molina's amendment.

Supervisor Antonovich's motion, as amended, seconded by Supervisor Molina, was unanimously carried.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:
Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel